[12th October 1928

STARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Accumulation of sand and silt on the river bed of the Godavari.

*600 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the river bed of the Godavari above the anicut is being gradually covered by sand and that the volume of water is getting diminished as a result thereof;

(b) whether an enquiry has been made as to the reasons for the accumulation of sand and silt; and

(c) whether the Government would call for a report as regards the causes that lead to the accumulation of sand and silt and the measures necessary to prevent the same?

A.—(a) to (c) A report has been called for.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—"Can I take it that the Government have not bestowed any attention up to now on the river bed which is being gradually covered by sand and lankas?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"No, Sir."

Land Assignment

Assignment of land in Andhra districts to two gentlemen.

*601 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about 500 acres of land in the Andhra districts have been recently assigned to two very respectable politicians of this Presidency;

(b) if so,

(1) the names of the two gentlemen to whom the assignments were made;

(2) the district or districts in which the respective assignments were made;

(3) the estimated value and the extent of the land assigned to each;

(4) the conditions under which the assignments were made;

(5) the dates of the applications and those of the assignments;

(6) whether the usual procedure under darkhast rules were observed in both the cases;

(7) whether any money was received by the Government from the assignees, being the value of the lands assigned, and if so, the respective amounts received;

(8) whether there were any trees on the lands assigned;

(9) if the answer to (8) is in the affirmative, whether any money was recovered for the values of the trees;

(c) whether any, and if so, what objection was originally taken against the assignment of the land to the two gentlemen or to one of them, by subordinate revenue authorities; and

(d) whether the assignments in one or both the cases, were ultimately made on the intervention of a high authority of the Government?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*), (1) *to* (4) & (7) *to* (9).—G.O. Mis. No. 1027, Revenue, dated 10th May 1928, is laid on the table [a]. The applicants were not described to the Government as politicians and the assignment was not made to them as such.

(*b*) (5) The exact date of the application is not mentioned in the papers with the Government. The Collector recommended the application to the Board of Revenue on 15th May 1927 and the Board of Revenue recommended it to Government on 5th December 1927.

(*b*) (6) The rules in Board's Standing Order No. 15 contain no provision to regulate the disposal of land for plantation purposes in the Agency tracts. This was the first application of its kind in those areas and was dealt with by Government under paragraph 3 (3) of Board's Standing Order No. 15.

(*c*) The Government are not aware of any such objection by the subordinate Revenue authorities. Both the Collector and the Board recommended the application.

(*d*) The question is not understood. The orders were issued by the Government.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, if any other members of this House were granted assignments either this year or previously?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I have to make enquiries. There are about 120 members in this House and as to whether they have obtained any darkhasts or not, I should like to have notice, Sir."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"Is there any such precedent of granting lands to sitting members of this House anywhere in the province?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I cannot recollect now. I must ask for notice if the hon. Member wants a specific answer."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know if the hon. Member can give the actual monetary value of the concession involved in the assignment of these lands to these two gentlemen?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"It is very largely a matter of opinion. If there is no means of extracting produce, some people might say it was nothing."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"What is the opinion of Government?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The Government thought that it was rather an advantageous offer from people who were willing to risk their money in opening up a new tract for coffee plantation and that it would prove to be a great benefit to that part of the country if it succeeded. Nobody has hitherto been prepared to risk money—certainly it is a risk—and Government were glad to find anybody to do it."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know if this grant was made jointly to these two gentlemen or individually?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"Jointly, Sir."

---

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 542–543 infra.

[12th October 1928

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of the question, whether in view of the fact that both these gentlemen are politicians of high reputation and influence in this province and one of them occupies a high and responsible office, the Government considered that aspect of the question before they came to a decision on this matter, especially when their action is liable to be misconstrued as placing them in an awkward position ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Certainly, Sir. I think it shows public spirit on the part of these gentlemen to risk their money."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" With reference to the answer to item (5) in clause (*b*) of the question, may I know whether these applications were made before November 1926 or after that ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Somewhere in the beginning of 1927 as far as I recollect."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether, if similar offers are made by other gentlemen, the Government would consider the matter equally sympathetically ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" They would be delighted, Sir."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I ask, Sir, why when the Board of Revenue
12 passed their orders on the 5th December 1927, the Government order was
noon. delayed till 10th May 1928 ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" As I already explained, Sir, this is the first application for opening a plantation in these areas, and the usual procedure of the Secretariat was followed ; precedents were looked up as to what had been done when such applications were first received from the Nilgiris, Shevaroys and the Anaimalais, and the study of all these matters took some time."

Land Revenue

Removal of prickly-pears from lake bunds in ryotwari villages.

*602 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the ryots are charged for removing prickly-pears from lake bunds in ryotwari villages ;

(*b*) under what authority is this being done and has the Government ever consulted legal opinion as to the validity of charging ryots for removing prickly-pears ;

(*c*) whether the Government have any records to indicate what customs have been prevailing in each village with regard to kudimaramat ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that in several villages the removal of prickly-pears from tank bunds by the ryots has never been a custom ; and

(*e*) whether the Government will consider the advisability of instructing the District Officers not to charge the villagers for removing prickly-pears ; and if necessary of amending Act I of 1858 suitably ?